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F O R M S
O F
P R A Y E R,

Proper to be Used
Before, At, and After
The Receiving of the
HOLY SACRAMENT:
Some of which may be fitly made
Use of upon other OCCASIONS.

To which are added,
Some MEDITATIONS, proper
to excite a Holy and Devout Frame
of Mind.

THE SIXTH EDITION.

L O N D O N :

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This Book is also printed in 8vo. to bind up with the *Common Prayer*.





T H E

P R E F A C E.

AMONG the many Endeavours that have been used to check the Impieties of the present Age, there is nothing, perhaps, has been found more successful, than the dispersing those Excellent Tracts that have been written, of late Years, by several worthy Members of our Church; who laying aside unnecessary Speculations, and what St. Paul calls Vain Janglings, have out of a Zeal for the Glory of God, and the Good of Souls, employed their Time and Pains in writing Practical and Useful Treatises, which having been scatter'd up and down in great Numbers, by Persons Charitably dispos'd, God has been pleas'd to bless the Seed sown, and there is great Reason to believe, that in Time it may produce a very plentiful Crop.

THE PREFACE.

The Composer of these Prayers, animated (he will not say, with an equal Zeal, but) with as sincere a Desire to promote the Interest of Religion, has flung in his Mite, in hopes that these Prayers may fall into the Hands of some People, that may find a real Benefit and Advantage by them.

It is not intended that this little Manual should any ways interfere with the Publick Prayers, or derogate in the least from our Excellent Liturgy; every Part of which is so admirably suited to the Purposes of Religion, that perhaps it will be no Digression from Truth, to say, (notwithstanding the cold Reception our Service has met with from some Men, through their unhappy Prejudices and Mistakes) that better Prayers have not yet been thought of: But what is chiefly aim'd at by publishing these Devotions, is to assist the good Christian in his private Retirements, both before and after receiving the Holy Sacrament, and to furnish him with proper Prayers to fill up those vacant Spaces, which must necessarily be in every Communion, especially where the Number of Communicants is great; that so he may not only come to the
Lord's

THE PREFACE.

Lord's Table with due Preparation, but employ every Minute of his Time there to Holy and Religious Purposes.

There is no one ('tis hoped) will think a Work of this Kind unnecessary, because there are already extant so many Prayers for the Sacrament: In this frozen and benumm'd Age, where the Love of many is waxen cold, there is need of all the Endeavours that can be us'd, to warm Mens Affections, and to inflame their Minds with a true Spirit of Devotion; and since there is such a Variety in the Judgments and Opinions of Mankind, it can be no Disservice to Religion, to multiply Books of this Nature; since the greater the Choice is, the more easily will everyone furnish himself with such Prayers, as he finds most apt to excite his Devotion.

May God of his Infinite Mercy bless this and all other Endeavours for keeping up, not only the Form, but the Life and Power of Godliness; that in our Addresses to him, we may not offer the Sacrifice of Fools, but pay him the Duty and Homage of Reasonable Creatures.

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FORMS of PRAYER

Proper to be Used

Before, At, *and* After

The Receiving of the

HOLY SACRAMENT.



*Whoſo eateth my Fleſh, and drinketh my
Blood, hath eternal Life; and I will
raiſe him up at the laſt Day, St. John
vi. 54.*

*A Prayer to be frequently uſ'd the Week pre-
ceding the Sacrament; and may properly be
added to our Devotions the Morning we
Receive.*

O ALMIGHTY God, and Mer-
ciful Father, who haſt given thy
only Son Jeſus Chriſt to die for us,
and didſt inſtitute a holy Feaſt in com-
memoration of that his moſt precious Death,

thereby to preserve in our Minds a constant Remembrance of his great Love, in laying down his Life for our Sakes ; I thy unworthy Servant, who am now invited to be a Guest at thy Holy Table, do humbly adore thy Divine Majesty, acknowledging, that I am not worthy of the daily Bread thou feedest me withal, much less to be a Partaker of that Bread of Life, which thou hast given to be the Food and Nourishment of our Souls.

O Lord, I confess my Sins are so many and so great, that they may justly cause me to tremble, when I appear before thee ; but, O merciful Father, presuming upon the Goodness of thy divine Nature, and the many gracious Promises thou hast made in Christ Jesus to the returning Sinner, I present my self before thee at this time, humbly beseeching thee, for his Sake, to pardon all my Sins, and to admit me to thy Holy Table ; that I may there commemorate the Love of my dying Saviour, with most devout and ardent Affections, and be made a Partaker of those exceeding Benefits, which his precious Death has purchased and procured for me. O Lord,

O Lord, to this End dispose and prepare my Heart for a devout receiving of the blessed Sacrament, by giving me a just Abhorrence of my own Unworthiness, and an unfeigned Repentance of all my Sins. Root out of my sinful and corrupt Nature, all Pride and Envy, all Prejudice, Hatred and Ill-will; and instill into my Mind, by the Influences of thy good Spirit, those devout and pious, those meek, and charitable, and humble Dispositions, which become the Servants of the blessed Jesus.

Give me a Heart rais'd above the Desires of this World, and free from all the Pollutions and Defilements of it. Make me truly sensible of the many Wants of my Soul, that I may come to thy Holy Table, with a true spiritual Hunger and Thirst; with earnest Longings and Desires to partake of the Benefits of thy divine Institutions; with an unfeigned Repentance of all my Sins, and with full Purpose and Resolution, through the Assistance of thy Blessed Spirit, of leading a holy and religious Life: And O let me there receive the Pardon of all my Sins, and such Supplies

12 *A Prayer for the Week, &c.*

of thy Grace and heavenly Benediction, as may support me under my many Weaknesses and Infirmities, and enable me to bear up under all the Trials and Temptations of this wicked World; and grant, that by a right Performance of this and all other religious Duties, my Faith may be more and more strengthened, my Hopes enlarged, my Charity encreas'd, my Zeal inflam'd, and my Soul so entirely and inseparably united unto thee, that nothing may be ever able to dissolve the Union; but that being begun here in Grace, it may hereafter be consummated in Glory, thro' the Merits of Him that died for me, even the Son of thy eternal Love, Jesus Christ the Righteous; to whom with thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, be ascribed, as is most due, all Honour, Glory, Power, Thanksgiving and Praise, both now and for evermore. *Amen.*

Let



Let a Man examine himself, and so let him eat of that Bread, and drink of that Cup, 1 Cor. xi. 28.

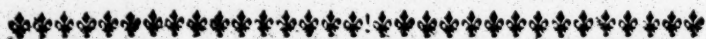
A Prayer before Examination: Taken for the most part out of Bishop KEN's Exposition of the Church-Catechism.

O Thou great Searcher of Hearts, who art thoroughly acquainted with all our Ways, and in whose Sight all Things are naked and open; help me so impartially to judge and condemn my self; so humbly to repent, and beg Pardon, that I may not be condemn'd, when I shall appear at thy Tribunal, in the great and terrible Day of the Lord Jesus.

Give me Grace, O Lord, to search every Secret of my Heart; that I may leave no Sin (if possible) unrepented of: Fill my Eyes full of Tears of Love, that with those Tears I may lament all the Indignities I have offer'd to thy Love.

But

But alas! after the most strict Examination we can make, who can number his Iniquities? Who can tell how oft he offendeth? O cleanse me therefore, I beseech thee, from all my secret and unknown Transgressions.



If we say, that we have no Sin, we deceive our selves, and the Truth is not in us. But if we confess our Sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our Sins, and to cleanse us from all Unrighteousness, 1 John i. 8, 9.

A Confession of Sins, to be us'd in the Time of Preparation for the Blessed Sacrament, and at other Times of Humiliation.

O Most Great and Glorious Lord God, Just and Terrible in thy Judgments to all obstinate and rebellious Sinners, but of infinite Mercy to such as truly repent, and turn unto thee; look down, I beseech thee, with the Eyes of thy tenderest Pity upon

upon me, a vile and sinful Creature, who with great Humility of Soul and Body do now present my self before thee, acknowledging that I am not worthy to lift up my Eyes to the Throne of thy Glorious Majesty. O Lord, my Sins are so many, and so great, that it is owing to thy infinite Goodness and Mercy, that I have now an Opportunity of humbling my self before thee, and begging Mercy for my Soul, which, I confess, has greatly sinned against thee.

I acknowledge, O my God, that thou hast, by innumerable Instances, manifested thy self to be a most kind and indulgent Father; but alas! I have abused thy Goodness, and made very ungrateful Returns for thy exceeding Kindness and Mercy. Instead of loving and delighting in thee, and paying thee a filial and chearful Obedience, I find in my self many times a great Prone-ness to offend thee, and a great Backward-ness and Indisposition to do those things, which thou requirest of me.

O Lord! I lament and bewail the wretched Corruption of my Nature, most sorrow-
fully

fully confessing before thee, that there is in my foolish Heart too great a Desire after the Things of this World; too great a Fondness for the Profits and Pleasures of it: And though I am fully persuaded, that it is my Happiness and Privilege, as well as my Duty, to love and serve thee, yet I am very apt to forget thee, and to grow careless and remiss in that great and important Work, which thou hast given me to do.

O my God! I confess with Sorrow, that this World has taken such hold of my Affections, that I neither love thee, serve thee, nor obey thee as I ought to do; my Devotion to thee is many times Cold and Languid; my Prayers are full of Wandrings, Deadness and Distractions; and the very best of my religious Duties are accompany'd with so many Failings and Imperfections, that I have great Cause to humble my self before thee.

*This is to be
varied, or o-
mitted, as eve-
ry one sees fit.*

“ How greatly, O God,
“ have I offended thee, by
“ Lust and Intemperance,
“ by Peevishness, Passion,
“ and Anger, by Covetousness and Ambi-
“ tion,

“ tion, by Pride and Envy, by Prejudice
“ and Ill-will towards my Neighbour, by
“ murmuring and repining at the Dispen-
“ sations of thy Providence, and by an
“ Unwillingness to resign my self to thy
“ Disposal in all Things? How frequently
“ have I violated my baptismal Engage-
“ ments, by preferring the Vanities of this
“ wicked World, before thy Favour, and
“ by suffering my Heart, which has been
“ so often dedicated to thy Service, to be
“ brought under the Bondage and Domi-
“ nion of Sin and Folly?

Even since my last Approaches to thy Holy Table, O Lord, I have not ceased to add new Sins to all my former. I have—
[*Here may be mentioned Particulars.*]

And what shall I now say unto Thee, O thou Preserver of Men! O Lord, I have no Hope but in thy Mercy, and the infinite Merits of my dear Redeemer; and if thou rejectest me, I am lost and undone for ever. But O thou compassionate Lover of Souls! who knowest whereof we are made, and rememberest, that we are but Dust, turn not thy Face from me, nor cast thy
Servant

Servant away in Displeasure ; let the Intercessions of thy beloved Son prevail in my Behalf, and for the sake of his meritorious Death and Passion, for all that he has done, and all that he has suffered for me, have Mercy upon me ; pardon and forgive, I most earnestly and unfeignedly beseech thee, all the Sins and Follies of my Life past, which are more than I can number, and greater than I am able to bear ; and more especially, O my God, lay not to my Charge the Sins, that I have committed since my last Approaches to thy Holy Table. [*Here again may be named Particulars.*] O cleanse me from all my secret and unknown Transgressions, and vouchsafe, O Merciful Father, to be reconcil'd unto me, thy humble and repenting Servant, who am sorry for my Sins, and griev'd, that I have offended thee, my most gracious Lord and Master, to whom I owe all the Returns of Love and Duty, that can possibly be paid by a Creature to his Creator.

O Lord, reserve not my Sins to be punished in the Day of thy fierce Anger ; (for who can dwell with everlasting Burnings !
who

who is-able to abide the fury of thy Wrath !) but spare me, O most Mighty God, and Merciful Saviour ; and grant that I may never fall into those Evils, which my Sins have justly deserved. Thy Property is always to have Mercy ; to Thee only it appertaineth to forgive Sin ; O turn away thy Anger from me, who meekly acknowledge my Vileness, and truly repent me of my Faults, and do now unfeignedly turn unto thee, with full Purpose and Resolution of Heart to serve thee faithfully, and to make it the great Care and Endeavour of my Life to please and obey thee.

O Lord ! there is nothing that I desire so much, as to be of the Number of thy faithful and obedient Servants : Thy Favour is better than Life it self ; thy Service is the most perfect Freedom. O enable me, by the Assistance of thy Blessed Spirit, to forsake all my Sins, and to reform whatever has been amiss in the Temper and Disposition of my Mind, or in any of the Actions of my Life. Open thou my Eyes, that I may see the Vileness and Deformity, as well as Danger of Sin ; that I may fly from all

Ap-

Appearance of Evil, and with an unwearied Diligence follow after and pursue the Things that make for my everlasting Peace. Grant, that for the Time to come I may live only unto thee, in an awful Fear of thy great Name, and a constant Regard to thy blessed Will, keeping always a Conscience void of Offence, both towards thee, and towards all Men.

Give me Grace to spend my Time religiously, soberly, and usefully, in the subduing my Passions, mortifying my corrupt Inclinations, and in the Practice of all those Duties thou requirest of me; that when thou shalt think fit to take me out of this State of Trial and Temptation here, I may be received into that blessed Kingdom, where all Tears shall be wip'd from my Eyes, and Sin and Death shall be no more. Grant this, O Merciful Father, thro' the Merits, and for the Sake of thy Son and my alone Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

When



When the wicked Man turneth away from his Wickedness that he hath committed, and doth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his Soul alive. Ezek. xviii. 27.

A Prayer to be used at the same Time, or shortly afterwards.

O Most Gracious and Merciful Father, who out of great Pity and Compassion to my poor Soul, hast given me this Opportunity of humbling my self before thee; accept, I earnestly entreat thee, of my unfeigned Sorrow for all the Sins which I have committed against thy Divine Majesty; I confess, it bears no Proportion to the Heinousness of my Offences; so weak and imperfect is it, that my Repentance it self needs to be repented of. O do thou in much Mercy look upon me, and let the infinite Merits of my dear Redeemer supply all my Defects,
and

22 *A Prayer for the same Time.*

and disdain not, I beseech thee, for his dear Sake, to be reconcil'd unto me, and to admit me into thy Favour, without which I am of all Creatures the most miserable.

O Lord, there is nothing that I desire so much, as to be delivered from the Power and Dominion of my Sins, and to be at perfect Peace with thee; for I have no Rest, so long as I think I am under thy Displeasure. I humbly therefore beg leave at this time to renew the Vows and Resolutions I have often made, of loving and obeying thee; and for that End, I offer unto thy Divine Majesty my Soul and Body, and all that is mine, humbly beseeching thee to take them into thy Custody, that being in Safety under thy Protection, they may be for ever devoted to thee and thy Service.

It is not, O Lord, with any Confidence in my own Strength, that I presume to give up my self to thy Obedience, (for alas! I am sensible that my Heart is very false, and too easily drawn away by the deceitful Tempter,) but all my Hopes, and
all

A Prayer for the same Time. 23

all my Dependance is in thy Almighty Power and Goodness ; and to that I humbly fly for Help against the cruel Enemy of my Soul, who is daily lying in wait to destroy me. I know thy Grace is sufficient for me, and therefore in thee do I put my Trust. Thou art my Hope and my Confidence, my Saviour and mighty Deliverer ; O never leave me then to my self, nor to the Weakness of my own corrupt Nature ; but let thy Holy Spirit be always present with me, to defend me in all my Conflicts, to support me under my many Weaknesses and Infirmities, to instruct me in all difficult Cases, and to carry me in Safety thro' the Trials and Temptations of this dangerous and deceitful World ; and grant, O Merciful Father, that I may never grieve that Blessed Spirit, nor fall into those Sins and Impurities, which will cause him to leave and forsake me, and to abandon me to my own foolish and perverse Will ; but give me Grace in all things to follow his Guidance and Direction, and to devote my self entirely to a Life of Virtue and Religion ; that denying all Ungodliness and worldly

worldly Lufts, I may live righteouſly, ſoberly, and godly, in this preſent World ; and after I have ſerv'd thee faithfully in this Life, I may be received into thoſe bleſſed Regions of everlaſting Reſt and Peace, which thou haſt reſerved for them, that truly and ſincerely love and ſerve thee, thro' the Merits of thy beloved Son Jeſus Chriſt the Righteous. *Amen.*

To do Good, and to Diſtribute, forget not, for with ſuch Sacrifices God is well pleaſed. Heb. xiii. 16.

After giving of Alms.

O Bleſſed God, who didſt accept the poor Widow's Mite, vouchſafe, I beſeech thee, to accept this ſmall Matter that I have now given towards the Relief of thy poor diſtreſſed Servants. I humbly offer it, as a Tribute and Acknowledgment, that all I have is from thee, and owing to thy great Bounty and Goodneſs. O pardon my

Prayers after Sermon is ended. 25

my vain and sinful Expences, and make me a faithful and wise Steward of all those Talents thou art pleas'd to entrust me with, thro' Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

This do in remembrance of me, St. Luke xxii. 19.

For as often as ye eat this Bread, and drink this Cup, ye do shew the Lord's Death till he come, 1 Cor. xi. 26.

Prayers to be used after Sermon is ended, and whilst others are Communicating.

I.

O Blessed Lord God, who hast ordained this Holy Feast for a solemn Commemoration of the infinite Love and Kindness of our most Gracious Lord and Master Jesus Christ, in condescending to take our Nature upon him, and to suffer Death upon the Cross for us miserable Sinners, and hast commanded us in his most Holy Gospel to *do this in remembrance of Him*; I thy

B

unworthy

26 *Prayers after Sermon is ended.*

unworthy Servant, in Obedience to that Command, and in Confidence of thy great Mercy and Goodness, do now approach thy Holy Table, acknowledging my self unworthy so much as to take up the Crumbs that fall from thence, much less to partake of this Feast, which thou hast prepared for thy faithful and obedient Servants; but, O merciful Father, who hast Compassion upon all Men, and hatest nothing that thou hast made, pardon, I most humbly beseech thee, for thy dear Son's sake, all those Sins that have made me unworthy to appear before thee, and let thy infinite Goodness and Mercy supply all my Defects, and make up what is wanting to fit my Soul for a devout and worthy receiving of this blessed Sacrament.

Drive away from me, I beseech thee, all vain and worldly Thoughts; and fill me with those devout and pious Dispositions, which become thy Presence, and those that attend upon thee.

Give me such a lively Sight and Sense of my Sins and Unworthiness, that I may heartily bewail my Transgressions; and such Measures

Prayers after Sermon is ended. 27

Measures of thy Grace, as may enable me to forsake them.

Grant that the Remembrance of my dying Saviour, and of the infinite Mercy he has shewn to Mankind, in laying down his Life for our Sakes, may raise in my Mind an utter Abhorrence of all Sin and Iniquity, and fill my Heart with an unfeigned Love to thee, and an universal Charity and Good-will to Mankind, that I may worthily commemorate the great Love of my Saviour in thus dying for us, and thereby be made Partaker of all those Benefits he has purchased for us, through his Merits and Mediation. *Amen.*

II.

O Father of Mercies, and God of all Love! Who art always more ready to hear, than we to pray; disdain not, I beseech thee, to accept the Prayers which I now offer to thy Divine Majesty, in the Name and through the Mediation of thy beloved Son. Turn not thy Face from me, nor cast thy Servant away in Displeasure; and though I am unworthy of the Name of a Child, yet be thou still my Father, merci-

28 *Prayers after Sermon is ended.*

ful and gracious, and shut not up the Bowels of thy tender Compassion towards me. Let the Intercessions of thy beloved Son, in whom thou art always well pleased, prevail on my Behalf; and for his Sake be thou reconcil'd unto me, and receive me to thy Favour, which I earnestly long for, and more passionately desire than all this World is able to give me.

O Lord, I confess, that I have gone astray like a Sheep that is lost, and it is owing to thy infinite Goodness and Mercy, that I have now an Opportunity of bewailing the Follies of my past Life, and pleading before thee the Merits and Death of thy dear Son: O let thy Pity and Compassion be still extended to me thy poor Servant, who am weary and heavy laden with the Burden of my Sins, and ready to sink under a Load of Human Infirmities. Stretch forth the Right Hand of thy Majesty, and support me for thy Mercies sake; rescue me out of the Power of my corrupt Affections, and say unto my Soul, I am thy Salvation.

To thee, O Lord, I fly for Refuge. O
deny

Prayers after Sermon is ended. 29

deny me not thy Succour; to thee I lay open all my Wants, for thou art the great Physician of our Souls; O do thou vouchsafe to pity the Weaknesses, and cure the Infirmities of my diseased Soul. I come unto thee, O Lord, who art the Fountain of all Mercy, beseeching thee to wash away all my Uncleaness in the Blood of the blessed Jesus, and to cleanse me from all Filthiness both of Flesh and Spirit; I come as a returning prodigal Child to his tender and compassionate Father; O receive me, and revive me by thy Favour, and do thou, who art the Source of Eternal Brightness, enlighten my dark Mind, that I may see the Things that make for my Peace; I acknowledge, O Lord, that I am a poor frail Creature, but in Confidence of thy infinite Love to the Sons of Men, I come unto thee, who art the great Lord of Heaven and Earth, beseeching thee to supply all my Wants, and to do more abundantly for me than I am able to ask or think.

Grant, O gracious Father, that by partaking of these outward and visible Signs, the Symbols of the Body and Blood of thy
B 3 dear

30 *Prayers after Sermon is ended.*

dear Son, I may receive that inward and spiritual Grace, which will sanctify my Nature, strengthen my feeble Mind, carry me safely thro' all the Dangers and Difficulties of this mortal Life, and enable me to triumph over the World, the Flesh and the Devil.

Root out of my Heart whatever is offensive to thy pure Eyes; and endue me with all those heavenly Virtues which are pleasing in thy Sight, and which thou wilt eternally reward, for the Merits and Sake of my blessed Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

III.

O blessed Lord God, thou most tender and compassionate Lover of Souls! What Returns of Praise and Thanksgiving shall I make thee for that wonderful and amazing Instance of thy Goodness, in sending thy dear Son into the World to die for the Redemption of Mankind? O let my Mouth be ever filled with thy Praise, and my Heart with thy Love; and do thou vouchsafe to discover so much of this great Mystery to thy Servant, as may cause me to adore thy
Goodness,

Prayers after Sermon is ended. 31

Goodness, and to make it the constant Endeavour of my whole Life to walk worthy of those great Things thou hast done for me, by a ready and chearful Obedience to all thy Commands, particularly this, of commemorating the Death and Passion of my dying Saviour.

But, O merciful Father, how shall such a vile Wretch as I am dare to approach thy Holy Table! How shall I presume to celebrate the Memorial of thy great Love to Mankind, who am so prone to offend thy Divine Majesty, and so very apt to transgress thy just and righteous Laws, whereby I have made my self unworthy so much as to make mention of thy Holy Name! O Lord, though I am a Sinner, yet I am still the Purchase of thy Son's Blood: O then do not despise me, do not reject me, but receive me graciously to thy Mercy for his Merits sake! Let the precious Blood of that immaculate Lamb speak on my Behalf, and powerfully intercede with thee for the Pardon and Forgiveness of all my Sins, which I am griev'd and sorry for, and do most earnestly beseech thee to wash

32 *Prayers after Sermon is ended.*

them all away in that Fountain, which thou hast opened for Sin and Uncleaness. Purify my polluted Heart, and cleanse it from all the Defilements which it has contracted in this miserable sinful World. And O let me never forsake thee, the Fountain of living Waters, to pursue the vain and empty Enjoyments of this World; but give me such a Sense of the great Importance of a holy Life, and of the great Obligations I am under to love and obey thee, that I may seriously and devoutly give up my self to thee and thy Service: Let the Remembrance of a Crucified Saviour be always present to my Mind, and be a never-failing Argument to secure me against the Temptations of this corrupt World; that as Christ died for me, and rose again; so I may die to Sin, and rise again to Newness of Life: And grant, O merciful Father, that by the Participation of these Divine Mysteries, I may receive such new Supplies of thy Grace, as may enable me to walk before thee in Holiness and Righteousness all the Days of my Life, thro' the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

IV. Blessed

IV.

Blessed Jesus! I am now approaching to thy Holy Table; O vouchsafe to grant me whatsoever thou see'st wanting to fit me for thy Divine Acceptance, and a worthy receiving of this blessed Sacrament. Give me Repentance unto Life, not to be repented of; endue me with a lively Faith, a perfect Love to Thee, and an universal Charity and Good Will to all Mankind; that thou pitying my Weaknesses, and forgiving my Infirmities, I may worthily receive these Pledges of thy Divine Love, to my Support and Comfort in this Life, and my eternal Happiness in that which is to come. Grant this, O merciful Saviour, for thy own dear Merits sake. *Amen.*





*Let us draw near with a true Heart,
in full Assurance of Faith, having our
Hearts sprinkled from an evil Consci-
ence, and our Bodies washed with pure
Water, Heb. x. 22.*

At the Table.

O Gracious God, whose Pity and Com-
passion exceeds the Kindness of the
most tender Father, look upon thy Servant,
who, encourag'd by thy Goodness, have
here presum'd to cast my self down before
thee. O let those Arms that were once
stretch'd upon the Cross, be now open to
receive me to thy Mercy. I am vile and
sinful ; but whither shall a Sinner under a
Load of Guilt and Misery fly, but unto
thee, the Fountain of all Goodness ! Let
thy merciful Ears, O God, be then open to
my Prayers, and spare me, O Lord most
Holy, O God most Mighty, O Holy and
Merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge
eternal ; suffer not thy Anger to rise against
me, nor cast thy Servant away in Displea-
sure.

sure. O Lord, thou art perfectly acquainted with all my Wants, and knowest how much I stand in need of this divine and heavenly Food; O! send me not away empty from thy Presence, but feed me with this Bread of Life, and let my Soul thereby be strengthened and refreshed, and be so filled with thy Grace, that it may never more become the Seat of Vanity and Folly, but the constant Residence and Abode of thy eternal and ever-blessed Spirit.

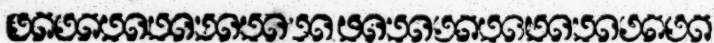
O Lord Jesus! take Possession of me, and let every thing that is hateful in thy Sight fly away from thy Presence. Let me feed on thee by a true and lively Faith, and give me such a Relish of this divine and heavenly Food, that I may never more be delighted with the vain and sinful Pleasures of this World.

*After the Bread.*

O Thou, who vouchsafest to be our Food, nourish my Soul to Life eternal.

Bishop Kenn.

O merciful Jesu! Create in me a mighty Hunger after this Bread of Life, this Bread which came down from Heaven; and let this divine Food instill into my weak and languishing Soul new Supplies of Grace, new Life, new Love, new Vigour, and new Resolutions, that I may never again faint, nor tire in my Duty.

*Before the Cup.*

GRant, O merciful God, that this Cup, which I am now about to receive, may be filled with thy Mercy, and be unto me the Cup of eternal Blessing. O let me never drink of the Dregs of thy Wrath, nor pour upon me the Vials of thy severe Displeasure; but sprinkle me with the Blood of the ever-blessed Jesus, that my Soul being cleansed from all its Corruptions, it may be ever precious in thy Sight, O Lord, my Strength, and my Redeemer.

After



After Both.

Blessed be the Name of the Lord. Blessing, and Honour, and Glory, and Thanksgiving, and Praise, be unto him that sitteth on the Throne, and to the Lamb, for ever and ever.

Lord, I have done as thou hast commanded me, O let me find the great Benefits of this thy Divine Institution ; pour down thy Graces upon me ; direct my Goings in thy Ways, and enable me by the Power and Strength of this Divine Food, to persevere in the Practice of a Holy and Religious Life, even to the last Moment of my Days. *Amen.*



Praise the Lord, O my Soul, and all that is within me, praise his Holy Name, Psal. ciii. 1.

Praise the Lord, O my Soul, and forget not all his Benefits, ver. 2.

Who

38 *A Thanksgiving afterwards.*

Who forgiveth all thy Sin, and bealeth all thy Infirmities, ver. 3.

A Thanksgiving afterwards.

O Merciful and gracious God, whose Goodness is unspeakable, and whose Mercies know no End; accept, I humbly pray thee, of my unfeigned Thanks, which I now offer to thy Divine Majesty, in return for all the Benefits which thou hast been pleased to bestow upon me and all Mankind; but more especially for that amazing Instance of thy Love, which moved Thee to have Compassion for the sinful Race of Men to so great a Degree, as to send thy only beloved Son into the World to be a Sacrifice for our Sins, that we might not perish, but have everlasting Life.

I bless thee, O my God, for instituting this Holy Sacrament, to the End we might always remember the exceeding Love of our Saviour in dying for us, and for admitting me, a sinful and unworthy Creature, to be a Guest at thy Holy Table, and giving me this Opportunity of being a Partaker of those exceeding Benefits, which by
his

A Thanksgiving afterwards. 39

his Death and Passion he has purchas'd and procur'd for us.

Lord, what is Man, that thou art thus mindful of him! Or what am I, that thou should'st so regard me! Great is thy Name, O God, and great is thy Mercy; thy Goodness is without End: O let the Consideration of these thy Mercies sink deep into my Heart, and bring forth in me the Fruits of a sincere Love to thee, and most hearty and sincere Resolutions of living soberly, righteously and godly in this present World; and grant, that my Returns of Duty and Obedience may in some measure answer the great Means of thy Grace, and as far as is possible for a poor weak Creature in this frail and mortal State, bear some Proportion to those great Things thou hast done for me.

To that End, O Lord, vouchsafe me such a Measure of thy Grace and heavenly Spirit, as may mortify and subdue in my corrupt Heart every proud, angry, envious and uncharitable Thought, every inordinate Love and Affection, and whatsoever else exalts it self against thy blessed Will; and
grant

40 *A Thanksgiving afterwards.*

grant that I may walk before thee in all Meekness and Humility, in Patience and Contentedness, in a perfect Submission to thy blessed Will, in the Practice of all those Duties of Love, Charity and good Will, which I owe to my Neighbour, and in a chearful and ready Obedience to all thy Commandments.

O Lord! It is the earnest and sincere Desire of my Soul to be conformable to thy Laws, and to obtain thy Favour and Love, which is dearer to me than all this World is able to give me; but alas! I am a weak and frail Creature, and my own Experience sadly teaches me, that, without thy restraining Grace, every the least Temptation will be able to baffle my strongest Resolutions: But, O God, in thee is my Trust; O let me not be confounded: Be thou my Help in time of Need, my Saviour and mighty Deliverer; let thy Grace and Holy Spirit be always present with me, to guide and direct me in all difficult Cases; to strengthen and assist me under my many Weaknesses and Infirmities, and to conduct me safely through all the Trials and Temptations

A Prayer of Intercession. 41

ptations, wherewith thou shalt be pleased to exercise me in this Life, that when I have fought the good Fight, and finished my Course, I may obtain that Crown of Righteousness, which thou hast promis'd to them that persevere unto the End. Grant this, O merciful Father, for the Merits and Sake of thy Son, and our alone Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

I exhort therefore, that first of all Supplications, Prayers, Intercessions, and giving of Thanks, be made for all Men.

For Kings, and for all that are in Authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable Life, in all Godliness and Honesty.

For this is good and acceptable in the Sight of God our Saviour, 1 Tim. v. 1, 2, 3.

Here may be properly us'd this Prayer of Intercession, when there is time for it.

O Almighty and most Merciful God, who in thy Holy Gospel hast commanded

manded us to make Prayers and Intercessions for all Men; I thy unworthy Servant, in Obedience to that Command, do humbly beseech thy Divine Majesty, to extend thy Pity and Compassion to the whole Race of Mankind. Give thy enlightning Grace to those that are in Darknes, and thy converting Grace to those that are in Sin; and grant that all such as have erred, and are deceived, may be brought into the way of Truth and Holiness, that so their Souls may be saved in the Great Day of the Lord Jesus.

More particularly, O Lord, be merciful to these Nations, to which I belong; pardon our great and crying Sins, and avert those Evils, that we have most justly deserved; put a Stop to that Profaneness and Irreligion, that Pride and Vanity, that Bitterness and Uncharitableness which so abounds; and let Truth, and Righteousness, and Peace flourish and prevail among us; that we turning from our evil Ways unto thee, the Lord our God, thou may'st turn from thy Displeasure against us, and delight over us, to do us Good; to build us up, and not to destroy us.

Be

A Prayer of Intercession. 43

Be gracious to thy Holy Catholick Church, especially that part of it, which thou hast planted in these Kingdoms; heal the Breaches, and compose the unhappy Differences, that have so miserably rent and divided it; and grant that all that profess the Religion of thy dear Son, may live like Brethren, in the Unity of the Spirit, and in the strictest Bonds of Charity and Peace.

O Lord, bless the Pastors and Governors of thy Church; give Success to all their Labours and Endeavours for the Good of Souls; and grant that by the Innocency of their Lives, and the Soundness of their Doctrine, they may promote thy Honour and Glory, and set forward the Salvation of all Men.

Bless our Sovereign Lord the King; protect his Person, prosper his Government, direct his Counsels, and make him an Instrument in thy Hands of great Good to these Kingdoms.

Let the Mournings, O Lord, of such as are in Affliction, ascend unto thy Throne, and give them such Help and Comfort, as thou seest best for them; and howsoever
thou

44 *A Prayer of Intercession.*

thou may'st think fit to deal with them in this World, O let them not fail of everlasting Comfort, in that which is to come.

Let a double Portion of thy Blessings, O God, descend upon my dear Wife; give us Grace to discharge the Duties of our respective Relations, and grant that we may live together lovingly and kindly, holily and religiously, and in thy Fear and Favour all our Days.

This is to be varied, or omitted, as it suits every one's Condition.

Bless those dear Children thou hast given us, and assist us by thy good Spirit to bring them up in the Fear of thee our God: Defend them, O Lord, from the Evils and Temptations of this World, and grant, that as they grow in Years, they may increase in Grace, and in thy Favour, and be Comforts to us all our Days.

Let every one of my Friends and Relations, O God, be of the Number of those, whom thou lovest and delightest in. Give them whatever thou see'st needful both for their Souls and Bodies, and after a safe and happy

A Prayer of Intercession. 45

happy Passage through this Life, grant them everlasting Rest and Peace in thy eternal Kingdom.

And, O Lord, if there are any that have done me Wrong, or which hate me without a Cause, give them Repentance, and better Minds, and never impute to them any Injuries which I have received at their Hands: And endue me, I beseech thee, with such a meek and patient Disposition, that no Provocations whatsoever may at any time transport me into an angry or revengeful Temper.

Hear, O Lord, I beseech thee, the Intercessions of me thy unworthy Servant, and let them find Favour and Acceptance with thee, through the Merits and for the Sake of thy Son, and my alone Saviour, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

This Intercession may be properly us'd at any other Time, and particularly in the time of Preparation for the Sacrament.

*A Concluding Prayer.*

Blessed be thy Name, O Lord, for the Opportunity thou hast now vouchsafed me, of commemorating the Death and Passion of thy dear Son. Pardon, I most humbly beseech thee, the Deadness of my Heart at this time, the Wandrings of my Prayers, and the Coldness of my Devotion. O let thy Mercy and Goodness supply what is wanting in me; and be thou graciously pleas'd to pity my Weaknesses and forgive my Infirmities, through the Merits, and for the Sake of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ the Righteous; to whom with thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be all Honour and Glory ascribed now and for evermore. *Amen.*

I have

*I have sworn, and I will perform it,
that I will keep thy righteous Judg-
ments, Psal. cxix. 106.*

A Prayer to be used at our Return Home.

O Lord, my God! I desire with all
Thankfulness of Heart, again to bless
and praise thy Holy Name, for the num-
berless Instances of thy Kindness and Mer-
cy bestow'd upon me, and more particu-
larly for thy great Goodness this Day vouch-
safed me, in admitting me, who am but
sinful Dust and Ashes, to approach thy
Holy Table, and for that Pity and Com-
passion thou hast shewn to my weak and
diseased Soul, in strengthening and refresh-
ing it with the precious Body and Blood of
thy dear Son.

O Lord, fill my Heart with a deep and
lasting Sense of what thou hast done for
me, that I may make it the sincere and
heartly Endeavour of my whole Life to
please and obey thee, and to keep at the
utmost

48 *A Prayer at our Return Home.*

utmost Distance from every thing that is displeasing in thy Sight.

O my God, it is thou only, who workest in us both to will and to do those things, that be acceptable to thy Divine Majesty; without thee I am not able to please thee; without thy preventing and assisting Grace, all my Endeavours will be vain and ineffectual: O let thy fatherly Hand, I beseech thee, be always over me: Let thy holy Spirit be ever present with me, and strengthen me a poor weak Creature, (subject to numberless Frailties and Infirmities) with the daily Increase of thy manifold Gifts and Graces, that I may be enabled to overcome the most powerful Temptations of the World, the Flesh, and the Devil.

Grant, O merciful God, that the healing and refreshing Virtues of that blessed Sacrament, which I have this Day been a Partaker of, may purify and cleanse my corrupt Nature, and cure all the Diseases and Disorders, that Sin has brought into my Soul.

O Lord! Let no unruly Lusts and Passions ever get the Dominion over me. Let
nothing,

A Prayer at our Return Home. 49

nothing, that is offensive in thy Sight, be ever pleasing in mine. Give me a truly Christian Spirit; the Spirit of Meekness and Humility; of Patience and Charity; and endue me with that heavenly Temper and Disposition of Mind which thou lovest and delightest in, and which is more to be desired than all this World can possibly give me.

Bless, O Lord, I beseech thee, all thy sacred Institutions for my Increase in Righteousness and true Holiness, and grant that I may daily grow in Grace; and be continually improving under all the Methods of thy Love; that so a good Conscience being my greatest Care, and Religion my chief Delight, I may live in thy Favour, and die in thy Peace; and at last, through thy Mercy, be found meet to be a Partaker of the Inheritance of the Saints in Light.

Hear me, O most merciful Father, thro' the Mediation, and for the sake of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Our Father, &c.

Whoſo offereth me Thanks and Praise, he honoureth me, Pſal. l. 23.

O praise the Lord; for it is a good thing to ſing Praises unto our God; yea, a joyful and pleasant thing it is to be thankful, Pſal. cxlvii. 1.

A general Thanksgiving proper to be used upon the Lord's Day in our Evening-Retirements, especially upon Communion-Days.

O Most glorious and eternal Lord God, thou art the great Creator of Heaven and Earth, and the Source and Fountain of all Good; look graciously upon thy Servant, who am come into thy Presence to offer up the humble Tribute of my unfeigned Praises to thy divine Majesty, from a Heart truly mov'd with a Sense of thy infinite and unspeakable Goodness.

I bleſs thee, O Lord, for creating me at first out of nothing, for causing me to be born of Christian Parents, and for admitting me by holy Baptism into the Communion of thy Church;

A General Thanksgiving. 51

Church; for all the Helps and Assistances of thy Grace, which I have since had, to enable me in any Measure to perform the Engagements that were then made on my Behalf; for implanting in my Mind an early Fear of offending thee, and a great Desire of pleasing thee; for whatever Sin I have at any time escaped, and whatever good I have done thro' the whole Course of my Life.

I bless thee, O Lord, for all thy Patience and Forbearance towards me; for sparing me so long, and giving me so large a Space for Repentance; for all the Motions of thy good Spirit, and the Checks and Restraints of my own Conscience; for the many Opportunities thou hast given me of serving thee, and calling upon thy Name, *particularly, O Lord, for those of this Day*, and for all other the Means of Grace, and for the Hopes of Glory: but above all, I magnify, I bless, I adore thy great and glorious Name, for sending thy Son into the World to die for the Redemption of me and all Mankind.

I bless thee likewise, O Lord, for all the temporal Mercies, which I have received from thy most bountiful Hand; for that

C 2

measure

measure of Health I have enjoyed ; for the many Friends and Relations thou hast given me ; for delivering me from the great Calamities I have justly deserved, and with which many of thy best and dearest Servants have been visited. 'Tis to thy Goodness I ascribe it, that I have the use of my Senses, and of my Reason ; that I am not languishing upon a Bed of Sickness, nor groaning under the sharpest Pains ; that I am not pining with Want, nor forc'd to beg my daily Bread, but

** This is to be varied according to every Person's Condition.*

am competently provided for, and see my* *dear Wife and Children*, and many other Comforts round about me. 'Tis from thee alone, O Lord, my Affairs do in any Measure prosper, or any the least of my Undertakings succeed ; 'tis thy Wisdom that directs me, thy Truth that instructs me, and thy Power that at all times preserves me.

More particularly, O Lord, I desire to bless and praise thy holy Name for (*here may be mentioned any other particular Mercies and Deliverances.*)

And now, O Lord, what Returns shall I, that am a poor Sinner, make for all these
mar-

marvellous Instances of thy Mercy and loving Kindness? O let my Tongue be daily sounding forth thy Praises, and grant that I may manifest the Sincerity of those Praises, by a holy Life and Conversation; by walking before thee in all Godliness and Honesty, by serving thee faithfully, and making a right Use of all those Blessings thou bestowest on me; by studying to please thee in all things, and doing every thing that becomes the Servant of so kind and bountiful a Master.

O let me never behave my self in so ungrateful a manner, as to provoke thee to withdraw thy Mercies from me; but give me such a lively Sense of thy loving Kindness towards me, as may excite my Thankfulness, and engage me to pay a willing and cheerful Obedience to thy Commandments; that devoting my self entirely to thy Service, I may daily grow in Grace, and be continually advancing to new Degrees of thy Favour; that so these Blessings here may be an Earnest of thy future Mercies, which I beseech thee to grant me for the sake of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed,

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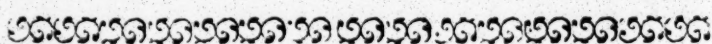
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O let me never behave my self in so ungrateful a manner, as to provoke thee to withdraw thy Mercies from me; but give me such a lively Sense of thy loving Kindness towards me, as may excite my Thankfulness, and engage me to pay a willing and cheerful Obedience to thy Commandments; that devoting my self entirely to thy Service, I may daily grow in Grace, and be continually advancing to new Degrees of thy Favour; that so these Blessings here may be an Earnest of thy future Mercies, which I beseech thee to grant me for the sake of thy beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be ascribed,

54 *A Prayer for Perseverance.*

as is most due, all Honour, Glory, Power, Thanksgiving and Praise, both now and for evermore.



To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my Throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his Throne, Rev. iii. 21.

A Prayer for God's Grace to persevere in a Christian Course of Life.

O Most gracious and blessed Lord God! thou art the Author and Finisher of every good Work ; without thee nothing is strong, nothing is holy ; without thy assisting and preventing Grace we are but as Dust before the Wind, carried to and fro, and easily driven away by every slight Temptation.

O Lord, I am thy Servant dedicated unto thee long ago by holy Baptism, and devoted to thy Obedience by those solemn Engagements, which were then made on my Behalf, and which I have since (*often*) renewed at thy holy Table, from a serious Sense and
Con-

A Prayer for Perseverance. 55

Conviction, that thy Service is the most perfect Freedom, and that without thy Favour and Love I am of all Creatures the most miserable.

O my God! I am fully persuaded, that it is my Happiness and Privilege, as well as my Duty, to love, adore, and serve thee. I am seriously convinc'd, that there is no Pleasure like that of a good Conscience, and that the greatest Satisfaction in this World are not worthy to be compared with that Fulness of Joy, which is in thy Presence for evermore: But alas! I am sensible that I carry about with me a wretched and corrupt Nature; I find a Law in my Members warring against the Law in my Mind; and know by sad Experience, that I am prone to offend thee, and too apt to forget the Vows and Resolutions, which I have made to serve and obey thee.

I beseech thee therefore, O most merciful Father, who knowest whereof we are made, and remembrest, that we are but Dust, that thou wouldst be pleased of thy great Goodness to pity the Weaknesses of thy poor Creature, and to vouchsafe me the

56 *A Prayer for Perseverance.*

Assistance of thy Grace and Holy Spirit, that I may not be tempted above what I am able to bear, but thro' thy Almighty Power may be enabled to persevere in my Christian Warfare, and successfully to encounter those Enemies of my Soul, the World, the Flesh and the Devil.

O let me never faint, or tire in my Duty, nor for the sake of any thing this World can offer me, be unmindful of the great and important Affair of my Salvation. Give me such a Zeal for thy Service, that the doing thy Will may be my greatest Joy and Satisfaction, and imprint on my Mind such a lively Sense of thy Love, as may inflame my Heart with the most devout and ardent Affections; that being every Day more and more wean'd from this World, I may look upon all its Honours, Pleasures and Profits with that Coldness and Indifferency, which becomes the Servant of the blessed Jesus.

Root out of my Heart, O God, by the powerful Efficacy of thy Grace, all Pride, and Envy, and Covetousness; all Bitterness, Anger and Malice, and whatever else is contrary to the Laws and Precepts of the Gospel;

pel ; and sow in my Mind the Seeds of true Religion and Goodness, that I may become fruitful in every good Word and Work, and that my whole Life may be one continued Act of an humble and dutiful Obedience to thy divine Commandments.

O Lord ! strengthen my Faith, fortify my Mind, and give me an honest and upright Heart, that nothing may be ever able to shake my Integrity ; but notwithstanding all the Allurements and Temptations of this World, I may continue stedfast and unmoveable, always abounding in the Work of the Lord ; that being faithful unto Death, I may at last obtain that Crown of Righteousness, which thou hast promised to them, who by patient Continuance in well-doing seek for Glory, and Honour, and Immortality, thro' the Merits, and for the sake of thy blessed Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

~~~~~  
*God is our Hope and Strength, a present  
 Help in Trouble. Psal. xlv. 1.*

*Blessed is the Man that endureth Tempta-  
 tion, for when he is tried he shall receive  
 the Crown of Life, which the Lord hath  
 promised to them that love him. Jam.  
 i. 12.*

*A Prayer to be used in Time of Temptation.*

**O** God, our Refuge and Strength, who  
 art a present Help in Time of  
 Trouble ! I fly unto thee for Succour against  
 the Face of my Enemy, who has now lift  
 up his Hand against me ; his Strength is  
 mighty, and his Malice great, and I, alas !  
 weak and unable to withstand his Assaults ;  
 but do thou, who art greater than all things,  
 send down thy Help from above, and rescue  
 me out of the Jaws of the devouring Lion ;  
 save me, and deliver me from the Tempta-  
 tions I am now under, which are too migh-  
 ty for me, and, unless thou helpest me, will  
 certainly prevail against me.

In

*A Prayer in Time of Temptation.* 59

In thee, O Lord, have I put my Trust,  
O let me never be brought to Confusion.  
Hide me under the Shadow of thy Wings,  
until I am safe from the Dangers that now  
surround me ; and however thou may'st  
think fit to make Trial of my Love and O-  
bedience, yet suffer me not, I beseech thee,  
to be tempted above what I am able to bear,  
but make me a Way to escape, that I may  
not sin against thee. There is nothing, O  
Lord, so terrible as thy Displeasure, no-  
thing so grievous to me as to sin against thee :  
O leave me not then, I humbly intreat  
thee, to my self, nor to the Weakness of  
my own corrupt Nature. I have no  
Strength of my own, but all my Hopes,  
and all my Dependence, is in thy Almighty  
Power and Goodness. Thou art the Rock  
of Ages, and the Help of all that put their  
Trust in thee : I know thy Grace is suffici-  
ent for me ; O deny it not then to thy  
Servant who now needs it, and most ear-  
nestly desires it ; and though I am not wor-  
thy of the least of all thy Mercies, yet, O  
most merciful Father, who pitiest the  
Weaknesses and Infirmities of thy Chil-  
dren,

60 *A Prayer in Time of Temptation.*

dren, have Compassion on me, and help me, that I may not be vanquished in this time of Trial and Temptation.

O Lord ! make me seriously to consider the great Folly and Danger of Sin ; that all its Pleasures are short and momentary, but its Punishment endless and intolerable ; that no Satisfactions can compare with the Joys of a good Conscience, nor any Trouble with that of a wounded Spirit ; and grant that I may be so fully persuaded of these great and important Truths, that I may turn away my Ears from the deceitful Tempter, and resolve to have no Fellowship with the unfruitful Works of Darkness : And O ! let the mighty Power of thy Grace animate my Courage, and strengthen my Faith, that nothing may stop me in my Christian Warfare ; but that fighting manfully under Christ's Banner, who is the great Captain of our Salvation, I may at last triumph with him in his eternal Kingdom, where there shall be no more Conflict with Sin, but I shall love and praise thee throughout all Ages. *Amen.*

*Some*



*Some Meditations proper to excite a holy  
and devout Frame of Mind.*

I.

**O** Eternal and adorable Goodness; Father of Mercies, and God of all Peace and Comfort! How transcendent and amazing have been the Discoveries of thy Love towards Man! It was thy Love that brought him into Being, when he was nothing, and after he had rendred himself worse than nothing, thy Love restored him to Happiness again.

Thou madest him at first after thine own Image, and tho' by his Fall and Defection from thee, he had forfeited those glorious Privileges, for which thou didst at first create him, yet thou wouldst not abandon him, nor give over pursuing thy gracious Designs of Mercy towards him. Thy Love, O infinite Goodness, contriv'd a Way for his Recovery; a Way so full of Wonder and  
Endear-



Endearments, that Heaven and Earth may stand amazed at it: It is the Incarnation of thy dear Son ; for *so didst thou love the World, that thou gavest thy only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him, should not perish, but have everlasting Life.*

O the Heighth and Depth, the Breadth and Length of this incomprehensible Love of thine ! How does it surpass all Understanding ! What Riches of Mercy and Clemency are discoverable in the Procedures of this Love ! How can we, the Children of Men, think or speak of it without Wonder and Amazement ! How should it fill our Souls with Love, and Joy, and Admiration, to consider, that thou should'st graciously forget the Injuries of a rebellious World, and entertain Thoughts of Mercy towards it ! That thou should'st pass by such vast Loads of Guilt ; pursue Mankind, when they were turning from thee ; offer Terms of Peace to those, who were thine Enemies, and invite the Sinner to return and live ; and that rather than the Race of fallen *Adam* should perish eternally, thou would'st bestow on them thy only

only begotten Son, to be their Saviour and Redeemer !

## II.

Lord ! hadst thou sent this Son of thy Love into the World, in Pomp and great Glory ; and had he come only to invite us to Repentance, we must acknowledge, that it had been a wonderful Expression of thy Mercy ; but that thou should'st condescend so far, as, for our Sakes, to give him up to be born in a mean State, to lead a Life of Sorrows, to feel our Miseries, and have Experience of our Temptations, and at last to become a Sacrifice and Propitiation for our Sins, to die a cruel, shameful and ignominious Death upon the Cross, to the End that we might live and be happy for ever ; how infinitely amazing is this ! O what Heart can conceive, what Tongue express the exceeding and stupendous Greatness of this Love ?

Is it not reasonable, O my God, that I should consider how to make some becoming Returns to thy Majesty for this thy unspeakable Goodness to the Sons of Men ?

But

But what Returns shall I, that am but Dust and Ashes, make to thee? Alas! all that I am, and have, and can do, falls infinitely short of thy surpassing Favours; yet, O merciful God, so great is thy Goodness, that thou wilt accept of our sincere, though imperfect Services, and therefore I will give thee the best I have: I will give thee my Heart, and I give it thee without Reserve, freely, willingly, and for ever. And from this Heart inflamed with holy and pure Desires, I do, and will continually offer up unto thee devout Adorations and Thanksgivings. I will always give Thanks unto thee for what thou hast done, thy Praise shall ever be in my Mouth. To thee will I ascribe Blessing, Honour and Glory; to thee that didst visit Man in his low Estate, that didst contrive a Way for his Redemption, and provide an invaluable Ransom for him; that rescuedst him from Slavery and Misery, and didst restore him to his forfeited Bliss; to thee that sittest upon the Throne, and to the Lamb for ever and ever. O let every thing that hath Breath praise the Lord; for his Mercy endureth for ever. *Amen.*

## III.

O holy and most merciful Jesus ! Did ever Love discover itself in such glorious Effects as thine has done ! Was ever Love so pure, so disinterested, as thou, O adorable Lover of Souls, hast shewn to the whole Race of Mankind !

O tender-hearted and compassionate Saviour ! How amazing is it to consider, that thou, who art the Lord of Heaven and Earth, should'st become a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with Grief ! That thou, who wert in the Form of God, should'st take upon thee the Form of a Servant, and be contented to leave the heavenly Mansions of Bliss and Glory, to live upon Earth, and to lead a mean and despised Life here for our Sakes ! That thou, who knewest no Sin, should'st be touched with the feeling of our Infirmities, and be tempted in all Points like as we are ! That thou, who wert the Brightness of thy Father's Glory, and the express Image of his Person, should'st submit to the vilest and most inhuman Treatment of cruel and outrageous

rageous Men, and at last give up thy precious Life a Ransom upon the Cross, and there die a most painful and ignominious Death, that even thy very Enemies might not perish, but have everlasting Life!

O tender and compassionate Lover of Souls! how has thy Beauty been disfigured, the Brightness of thy Glory clouded, and thy Majesty debased for our Sakes! O may I ever dwell in the Contemplation of this thy Love, and by its mighty Energy be so perfectly disengaged from all other Objects, as to become united unto thee, and transformed into thy Likeness! But alas! how has the Love of this World seiz'd upon, and taken Possession of my Heart! O my Strength and my Redeemer, interpose, I beseech thee, with the exceeding Power of thy Grace; empty my Heart of all impure and sinful Loves, of all earthly and carnal Affections, and of all inordinate Propensities to the things of this World; that being filled with thy Grace, and with a true Sense of what thou hast done, and suffered for me, I may love thee with my whole Heart, and with all the Powers



Powers and Faculties of my Soul, and manifest the Sincerity of that Love, by living in a constant Observance of thy most righteous Laws and Commandments. *Amen.*

## IV.

O dearest Saviour! since thou hast procured so great and excellent Privileges and Blessings for me, I acknowledge it to be my most bounden Duty, not only to be exceeding thankful for them, and very highly to prize and value them; but also constantly to aspire after the Participation of them; by carefully endeavouring to fulfil the Terms on which thou hast promised to bestow them.

Make me deeply sensible, I earnestly beseech thee, that my Sins cannot be pardoned, while I continue in the Love and Practice of them; nor thy Grace increased in me, so long as I resist it: That whilst I am unholy, I can never be happy; nor be admitted into Heaven until I am made righteous: That my Day of Grace may (and most probably will) be shortened, if I squander it away in gratifying my Lusts; and that  
if

if I do not make good use of the present Opportunity; if I do not work the Work, which thou hast given me to do, to Day, whilst it is called to Day, the Night will come suddenly upon me, when no Man can work, and then all those things which belong to my Peace will be for ever hid from my Eyes.

O blessed Saviour! let these momentous Truths be deeply imprinted on my Mind, and powerfully excite in me a sincere Endeavour after the Attainment of true Holiness and Goodness. Grant that through the Assistance of thy Grace I may vigorously labour after that sincere Penitence which entitles to Pardon, and that Purity which qualifies for Bliss and Glory; and may so spend my time of Trial and Probation here, as that at the Close of it I may be strengthened and supported with a well-grounded and lively Hope of an Eternal Inheritance in that heavenly Kingdom, which thou hast purchased for us, thro' thy Merits and Mediation. *Amen.*

## V.

O dearest Jesu! I am fully assured, that thou art a Teacher come from God, and hast shewn us that Way, that leads to Heaven and Happiness: and therefore it is my Resolution, as it is my Duty, and my Honour, my Interest and my Happiness, to become thy Disciple, and carefully to attend to those Divine Truths, which Thou hast taught us: O grant, I beseech thee, that I may learn of thee with a sincere, a meek and humble Heart.

O true Light, and Light of Men! in thee are hid the Treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge, and thou canst and wilt communicate them unto thy faithful Disciples, in such Measures as thou seest necessary for their Direction and Guidance, their Comfort and Assistance, during their Pilgrimage in this World, and for preparing them to partake of the Inheritance of the Saints in Light.

Good and gracious art thou, O Lord, and therefore thou wilt not only pity, and pardon penitent and returning Sinners, but  
thou

thou wilt also teach them the Way that they should choose. The meek thou wilt guide in Judgment, the meek thou wilt teach thy Ways.

O that I had the true and sincere Dispositions of a Disciple and a Learner, that I might receive thy divine Instructions, the sincere Milk of thy Word, and grow thereby ! Lord, open thou my Eyes, that I may see the wondrous things of thy Law ; remove the Veil of Ignorance and Prejudice from my Understanding, that I may discern the Beauty, Excellency and Goodness of thy Commandments, and know by my own Experience, that all the Ways of Religion are Ways of Pleasantness, and Paths of Peace.

O blessed Saviour ! there is nothing I so much long for and desire as to arrive at a perfect Conformity to thy Will, and to be free from the Weight and Bondage of a corrupt Nature, which is too heavy for me, unless thou wilt support and strengthen me.

I know thou hast invited the weary and heavy-laden to come unto thee, and I assuredly believe, that if they do so, thou

wilt give them rest ; thou wilt bind up the broken-hearted, and give Medicine to the Sick ; thou wilt strengthen the feeble-minded, support the weak, and never reject the sorrowful Sighings of an humble and contrite Sinner.

On thee therefore do I rely for Help and Assistance in all my spiritual Combats and Trials ; on thee do I depend for Support and Strength under my many Weaknesses and Infirmities : I have had long Experience of thy Goodness, and am fully satisfied thou wilt never leave me, nor forsake me, so long as I adhere firmly to thee. O keep me close by thee, and let me never wander out of the Way of thy Commandments. In all my Conflicts and Trials let me look unto thee, and depend upon thy divine Assistance. I am conscious of my own Weakness, and am sensible how unable I am to contend with Enemies so powerful, and so subtle, as the Devil, the World and the Flesh ; but O blessed Captain of our Salvation, if thou standest by me, and strengthenest me, I can do all things ; no Difficulties will be then too great, no Temptations



tions too strong for me to overcome. O do thou enable me then to fight manfully under thy Banner, until I have crucified my old Man, conquered the World, and bruised *Satan* under my Feet; that when the time of my Departure is come, I may have good Ground to say, I have fought a good Fight, and finished my Course, and may joyfully hope to receive that Crown of Righteousness, which thou, the righteous Judge, wilt graciously confer on all thy faithful Soldiers and Servants, at the great Day of thy appearing to judge the World. *Amen, Amen.*

F I N I S.



A Prayer before receiving

O Thou who art the Bread of Life  
who dost feed Souls & nourish Spirits  
unto Life Immortal; who hast Food, the  
World knows not of & by secret Influ-  
ence, canst enlighten those that wait at  
the Feet for the stirring of the Nations;  
O bring my Mind in frame! O draw me  
to eat in this sacrament of Thy Love  
to the satisfying of my Soul! Make the  
Bread of Life sweet & bitter to me. I  
have fed too long upon that stollen Bread  
open thou my Eyes that I may see the  
power of my condition. O I blush not  
this blessed Bread thou hast thro much  
compassion & mercy given me this (per-  
haps lost) opportunity of partaking of  
in this sacrament is that which will  
strengthen my Heart. I want only a  
mighty Hunger & Thirst. give me O my  
God.

the greatest & the Holiest desires after  
that Bread which nourishes to Life Eternal.  
O let the Benefits of thy Death proceed  
Life to my Dead Spirit. Raise it above  
this dull & corruptible Flesh that it  
may triumph over its base desires. Bring  
thou back my Captivity, O make my Chain  
fall off. Let the Liberty of thy children  
which consists in a cheerful perfor-  
-mance of their Duty, an humble sub-  
-mission to thy blessed will, in all  
changes of person & condition a  
firm & faithful reliance on thy  
gracious promises be my delight  
and my ornament that my soul  
may rejoice in thee even amidst my  
increasing afflictions, & the calamities  
of my present condition. O when  
ever this painful Body is cast into  
the Original Bed of Clay it may rest in  
full hope of a joyful resurrection thou O

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